AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An illumination device which comprises a light source and a light guide member having an entrance surface for receiving light coming from the light source, an exit surface for outputting light in an illumination direction, and a first diffusion region for reflecting and/or diffusing an incoming light beam across a longitudinal direction, ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a second diffusion ~~means inserted in~~ region inserted in an optical path of light ~~which is emitted by the light source and enters the entrance surface~~ between the light source and the entrance surface, the light being emitted by the light source.

2. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said device comprises a plurality of light sources, and said second diffusion ~~means is~~ region is common to light beams coming from the plurality of light beams.

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said second diffusion ~~means comprises~~ region comprises a light diffusion surface formed on the entrance surface.

4. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said second diffusion ~~means comprises~~ region comprises a three-dimensionally patterned surface formed on the entrance surface.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said second diffusion ~~means comprises~~ region comprises a three-dimensionally patterned surface formed on a surface of a resin which covers the light source.

6. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said second diffusion ~~means comprises~~ region comprises a scattering agent contained in a resin that covers the light source.

7. (Original) The device according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of light sources are integrally packaged.

8. (Original) The device according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of light sources comprises LEDs.

9. (Original) The device according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of LEDs have different emission wavelengths.

10. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein the plurality of LEDs respectfully have red, green, and blue emission wavelengths.

11. (Original) An image sensor comprising an illumination device cited in claim 1, a lens for imaging optical information at a read position, and a photoelectric conversion element for receiving an optical image formed by said lens, and converting the optical image into an electrical signal.

12. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising an image sensor cited in claim 11, and driving ~~means for changing~~ device adapted to change a relative position ~~between said image sensor and an object to be read~~ of the image sensor along a scanning direction during scanning of the object to be read.

13. (Original) An information processing system comprising an image reading apparatus cited in claim 12, and an external information processing apparatus for controlling said image reading apparatus.